

Mr. DUNCAN. Madam Speaker, usually when I rise to speak in the period of special orders it is to talk about some specific bill or specific legislation. Tonight I am doing something a little different and discussing something that I think has the potential of becoming a problem in some ways, and I would just like to call some attention to it and get some people, hopefully, to start thinking about it.

In doing so, I will start by reading a quote that I read, I think sometime last year in, I believe, an Associated Press story, and it was a quote from David Geleanter, who is a professor of computer science at Yale University. He said this. "Computers themselves are fine. But we are in the middle of an education catastrophe. Children are not being taught to read, write, know arithmetic or history. In those circumstances, to bring a glitzy toy into the classroom seems to me to be a disaster. It reinforces our worst tendencies. The idea that children are in educational trouble because they do not have access to enough glitz and what they really need is a bigger database is staggeringly ludicrous. They need practice in the basics." That is a quote by a professor of computer science at Yale.

What I am saying tonight is let us do not forget the basics in education. Sure, it is important to learn about computers, but we seem to be worse off with the computer today in thinking that it is the end-all of education and we are neglecting the basics in many, many ways. Children still need to learn to read and write and know arithmetic and know history and the basics.

Secondly, along this same line, I heard Tony Kornheiser, one of the sports columnists for the Washington Post and on ESPN and so forth, and he mentioned in a column, and also I heard him on the radio talking about this one time, about three young men who had called him at different times during the time of the last World Series, and he said they each asked for Tony Kornheiser's e-mail address. He said when he told them that this was Tony Kornheiser to whom they were speaking, he said they got so flustered that a couple of them hung up, and one got so nervous that he could hardly speak. He asked the question, are we raising a generation of young people who are spending so much time in front of the television set and so much time in front of the computer screens that they are not developing the social skills that they really need or that people have developed in past years.

We became concerned as a society because children were spending so many thousands and thousands of hours in front of the television set. So we took them from in one of one screen and placed them in front of another screen called a computer, and I am just wondering if they are not isolating them-

selves. It is getting where people can shop at home, work at home, and we can all become Unibomber hermits if we want to, I suppose, but I do not think it will be good for society.

I tell young people at home to watch a little television. I have no objection to that. Learn the computer. We all have to do that today. It is an important and valuable thing. But every once in a while get out and get involved with a real life human being. Life will mean more if you do. Unfortunately, we are having fewer and fewer people who are joining the American Legion and the Kiwanis and the Shrine and all the various civic and charitable organizations that have been so very important to this country for so many years.

Thirdly, Madam Speaker, I heard a few months ago Barbara Walters on 20/20 one night saying she was going to present the most important hour she had ever presented on television. That got my curiosity up because she has been on television for so long. And what it was, it was a program devoted to warning parents about the sick, evil things that are on the Internet. There again, that is another facet of this same problem.

I am not against computers. I am all in favor of computers. But what I am saying is we still need to make sure our young people learn the basics in school, like reading, writing, and history. We still need to make sure that our young people develop the social skills that they need to survive.

My father told me many years ago, half jokingly and half seriously, that the problems of this country grew worse when they stopped putting front porches on the houses. People stopped visiting with each other. They tell us many people do not know their next door neighbors. All I am saying is we need to make sure we do not get isolated unto ourselves to where we do not really know people and get involved helping other people in their lives.

During this program by Barbara Walters, she told the story of a little boy who had actually become involved with such terrible things over the Internet that he ended up with such rage built up in him that he killed another child. Barbara Walters thought it was so very important to warn parents about some of these horrible things that are on the Internet and that children are exposed to that they were not exposed to so many years ago.

So all I am saying tonight is we need to be aware of those three things, those three concerns, because it is very, very important to this country and to its future that we make sure that young people get the benefits of all this new technology but are not harmed by it.

TRIBUTE TO THE LATE SENATOR CHAFEE

(Mr. MORAN of Virginia asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. MORAN of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I rise in great sadness to offer my sincere thanks to a man known as an outstanding example of a true leader among his colleagues in the Senate and indeed in life.

Senator Chafee was known as an old-fashioned legislator. He took his job very seriously but he eschewed politics. He cared about public policy and doing his best for the people of this Nation, never cowing to the partisanship in which we so often becoming entangled.

I knew him best as a modern man in the Senate, as the co-chair of the Congressional Prevention Coalition. As its co-chair, Senator Chafee worked to spread crucial health information to Members of the House and Senate so that they could spread the word to their constituents throughout the United States.

That was just one of the many ways Senator Chafee reached across the aisle to make America a better place to live. We are all better people for his efforts. As the Washington Post said this morning, the Senate will be a lesser place without him. He will be sorely missed by us all.

THE BUDGET PROCESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 1999, the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. PETERSON) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

Mr. PETERSON of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, I and a group of colleagues come here tonight to discuss the approaching conclusion of the budget process. A lot of people do not get too excited about budgets, but that is really what it is all about. Whether it is our family, our business, or the government, the budget is the working document of how we are going to spend our money, how we are going to use our resources, and what our priorities are.

I find it pretty exciting this year, as we come down to this budget conclusion, that we really have the mechanism in place to balance the budget and not use any Social Security. That is going to be historic, because for decades the Social Security fund has been used routinely to fund general government.

Now, this process has been going on for a while. It started back in February when the President came and addressed us and he gave us his State of the Union message and presented us with his budget proposal. That proposal is a lot different than I think what we are going to end up with, I hope, because he had \$42 billion of new spending. He